Anti-Corruption Commission holds press conference in Nay Pyi Taw

A PRESS conference by the Anti-Corruption Commission was held yesterday morning at the commission’s office in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the press conference, commission chairman U Aung Kyi, commission secretary U San Win and commission member U Soe Tint explained the policy of the commission, future work programmes, work experience and complaints.

Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi

Roughly, there are three types of anti-corruption practices. The first is where anti-corruption laws are enacted but an independent enforcement and control entity is not formed. The second is where anti-corruption laws are enacted and many enforcement and control entities are also formed. The third is enacting a specific anti-corruption law and forming an independent enforcement and control entity.

The third is thought to be the most effective in Asian countries and is widely used. It is also being practiced in our country.

SEE PAGE-11

Depression likely to intensify in next 24 hours

THE monsoon is set to get vigorous over the next two days, as the low pressure area over the North Bay of Bengal now lies over the Northeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh coast. It is likely to further intensify into a depression in the next 36 hours. The monsoon is vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology at 4 p.m. yesterday.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and neighboring areas for today is some rain or thundershowers and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent, whereas for Mandalay and the neighboring area, it is one or two rain or thundershowers and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar’s coasts. — GNLM

Children attending monastic education schools in Singu received vaccination against the Hepatitis B virus on 8 June 2018 by a foundation. The vaccination campaign will be carried out in June, July and December, according to the Pann Thee Foundation from Yangon. On 8 June, over 180 school children from Gandaryon Monastery in Singu were vaccinated.

PHOTO: WIN MAUNG (SINGU)

School children in Singu vaccinated against Hepatitis-B

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PHOTO: WIN MAUNG (SINGU)
MOFA delegation arrives back Yangon after attending 17th round of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations

A MYANMAR delegation led by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended the 17th round of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) held in New Delhi, India on 7 June 2018 and arrived back Yangon in the morning of 9 June 2018.

U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India co-chaired the FOC, which was held at the meeting hall of the Taj Mahal Hotel in New Delhi at noon on 7 June 2018.

The Myanmar delegation comprising of U Myit Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Moe Kyaw Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to India and responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi attended the FOC while the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs.

At the Foreign Office Consultations, both sides extensively discussed wide range of matters pertaining to the promotion of the bilateral relations and multi-faceted cooperation including security and defence cooperation, boundary and border matters, development cooperation, promotion of trade and investment and consular and cultural cooperation as well as potential areas of future cooperation between the two countries.—Myanmar News Agency

Paper reading session on archival research method held to commemorate International Archives Day

PAPERS about the archival research method were held at the Nay Pyi Taw National Archives Department (NAD) yesterday morning to commemorate International Archives Day.

In his address at the event, Ministry of Planning and Finance permanent secretary U Tun Tun Naing said the International Council on Archives (ICA) was established in 1948 as a non-government organisation.

Its aim was to promote the management and use of records and archives, and the preservation of the archival heritage of humanity around the world through the sharing of experiences, research and ideas on professional archival and records management matters, and on the management and organisation of archival institutions.

The National Archives Department of Myanmar was established in 1972 and this is the first time such an event is being held. NAD is a member country of ICA, as well as a regional member of the Southeast Asia Regional Branch of International Council on Archives (SARBICA).

The department collects archived records, uses various technology and methods to maintain records, provides archived records to government departments, the public, students and research works according to the National Records and Archives Law.

The 70th anniversary of International Archives Day was commemorated by an exhibition at the Myanmar national archives for the public and a paper reading session through which the aim of the ICA and the role of the national archives were presented.

Government departments, related departments and entities are urged to help maintain and preserve the country’s history, cultural and records heritage, said the permanent secretary.

Next, NAD director (retired) Daw Khin Khin Tun, University Library Chief Librarian (retired) Daw Tin Phone Nwe, Universities’ Historical Research Department director (retired) Myanmar Historical Commission member U Myint Naing, Ministry of Information permanent secretary U Myint Maung, heads of departments, experts who will read the papers, and invited guests.

To commemorate International Archives Day, the national archives in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw are displaying national heritage records from 1 to 14 June. — Zin Oo, Naing Lin Kyi

SWRR Deputy Minister inspects Maungtaw resettlement works, provide assistance

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) U Soe Aung, Rakhine State minister for security and border affairs Col. Phone Tint, State minister for planning and finance U Kyaw Aye Thein and other officials inspected the housing construction project in Shwe Zar Village, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, conducted with the assistance of the government of India.

Hindustan Prefab Limited Deputy General Manager A. Shashikanta Sharma and other officials explained to the Deputy Minister and party the construction status of 148 houses. The deputy also assured the party of completing the construction work on time and using standard quality construction material.

Some 40 local people are being employed in the construction work, it is learnt.

Next, the Deputy Minister and party visited the temporary camp for Hindus in Maungtaw Township and encouraged the people there after providing 89 bags of rice, 107 viss of cooking oil, 428 viss of peas and some 22 viss of salt worth Ks2.6 million for 1,255 persons from 283 households.—Zin Oo, Naing Lin Kyi

Planning and Finance Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing addresses paper reading session to mark International Archives Day in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA
Exclusive:
Interview with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

M Y A N M A R’S LEADER Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sat down for her first one-on-one interview with NHK in 5 years. In the interview, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told NHK World correspondent Orie Sugimoto that deep-rooted communal sentiment in Rakhine State cannot be resolved overnight.

Q: The Myanmar government has agreed to have UN Agencies assist with the repatriation process of the so-called Rohingya people in Rakhine State, and to set up an independent committee to investigate human rights violations. These actions have been long required by the refugees themselves and international communities as well. Why did Myanmar take these actions at this time at this point?
A: I don’t think it’s quite this time at this point. It’s a process. Perhaps, people are unaware of the fact that we have been negotiating with UN Agencies, as sure kind of MoU we can agree to and this goes back to quite some time ago to the recommendations of Dr. Kofi Annan’s commission. And, of course, with the regard to the national latest investigation team, this is something that was advised by our advisory board. And we take very seriously that advice because after all, we appointed them because we believe they will be able to give us a valuable perception of the situation.

Q: As we cannot see that, may I ask you why it took such a long time for Myanmar to come out with these actions? What’s the difficulty in taking these actions?
A: Well, I don’t think you can say that it took us a long time because if you remember the advisory board made their recommendations just a few months back. So, I don’t think you can say we have taken a long time over the national investigation team. With regard to the UNDP and the UNHCR MoU, we’ve been negotiating and to negotiate and come to an agreement on MoU, we need to look into all the implications, both sides. There are some things that we agreed to immediately and there are some things over which we had to trash out a few obstacles. So, if we want to have a MoU that is meaningful and also at the same time, truly implementable, I think it’s worthwhile to take a bit of time.

Q: What was the difficult point for Myanmar to comply with?
A: I don’t think there was one difficult point of such either for us or UN Agencies. I think it was a question of many points. But none of them really is inseparable, which is why we’ve come to an agreement now.

Q: Myanmar has been criticized for alleged violence against so-called Rohingya Muslims. I also heard the Myanmar government saying that this issue is very complicated, complex, sometimes it’s not right for the international community to intervene in this issue. Could you explain why this issue is so complicated and difficult for Myanmar, and why sometimes it’s not right for the international community to intervene in this issue?
A: First of all, of course, it’s a long-standing issue. People forget that it goes back a couple of centuries. It’s not something that happened yesterday. You cannot resolve a problem that has been existing for such a long time in a few months. And our government took over the responsibility of that administration just 2 years ago. And you cannot resolve a problem like that overnight. And very few people outside of Myanmar and even very few people in Myanmar are aware of all the historical issues that are involved. So, it’s not just for the world outside. It’s also for our people inside the country to understand what’s going on and why we take the steps that we take. It’s most important that our people should understand. Because we are the one who must in the long run preserve the stability and security of our country.

Q: Is it too risky for Myanmar not to wait for or not to take enough time to explain to the people of Myanmar and to explain the international community how complex this issue is?
A: I think it’s risky for anybody to go headlong into a problem without considering all the various aspects involved.

Q: Can you please explain what the risk for Myanmar is in doing things more quickly?
A: You cannot hurry over everything. The things that require time have to be given time. You cannot force issues. You cannot say to people, for example, “Now forget about the problem and start a new page.” You can’t just order them. You have to create a situation which will enable them to understand why they have to find different ways of resolving all the problems.

Q: Can you talk more about the independent committee to investigate the human rights violation in Rakhine State such as the members of the committee? Are you sure that it will be reliable and independent and will explain to the international community that the Myanmar government is trying to follow the rule of law?
A: We cannot at the moment tell you exactly who is going to be in the commission. But we will only appoint people in whose integrity and whose ability we have full confidence.

Q: In Cox Bazaar, many refugees are hesitating to return to Myanmar because they are afraid of facing violence if they come back to Myanmar. This fact is making it even more difficult to start voluntary repatriation. So, how will Myanmar restore trust with the refugees and also with the international community?
A: Trust is a 2-way business. I don’t think it’s just up to just Myanmar to establish trust. I think the other side also has to take necessary steps in order to establish trust. For example, we understand that the forms that are required to fill in in accordance with the MoU agreed between Myanmar and Bangladesh have not been distributed widely to the refugees.

Unless these forms been distributed and unless the refugees know that there’s a legal and safe way for them to return to Rakhine. Then we will not be able to make quick progress. So I think, it’s a 2-way process. MoU is agreed to by 2 or more parties, and it’s competent on all parties involved to implement their responsibilities.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, right, interviewed by NHK World correspondent Orie Sugimoto. PHOTO: MNA
Exclusive: Interview with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Q: I understand that all parties have a lot of work to do to restore and establish mutual trust. For the Myanmar side, what can you do?
A: We have carried out all our responsibilities in line with the MoU. If you study the MoU, if you look at what we’ve been doing, I think you’ll find that we have carried out all our responsibilities. But trust is not something that you can create just by signing a piece of paper and it’s the people who have to take a risk on whether or not the situation is trustworthy. If you’re not prepared to try out a situation, you can never tell for sure whether it’s acceptable or not.

Q: I understand that Myanmar has taken all possible actions to restore the trust. But from now on, what kind of actions do you plan to take?
A: Trust is not something that you establish within a limited amount of time. You cannot say, well, trust has been established to Degree A, and now. And the next 4 months we go to Degree B. It doesn’t work like that. It’s an ongoing process. And as I said, everybody concerned must be positive and committed to the process of reestablishing trust.

Q: Recent actions by the Myanmar government like the agreement with the UN, establishment of the independent committee to restore mutual trust and with other parties...can we understand it in that way?
A: Are you saying that did we undertake to sign the MoU with the UNDP and UNHCR and to form the investigation team in order to create trust?

Q: I don’t mean to say it’s the only purpose. But is it in line with Myanmar...?
A: I think I’ve explained several times now that it’s in line with the recommendations that were made by Dr. Kofi Annan’s commission and by our advisory board. The commission and the board both were formed at our initiative and obviously, we put people whose wisdom and goodwill we believe, so their recommendations have to be taken very seriously indeed.

Q: I know it’s very difficult for you to clarify but can I ask when do you expect the actual return of the refugees will start?
A: That depends much on us as but also on Bangladesh. It’s a 2-way business. Until the refugees have been given the forms, until they’ve been informed fully of all the steps they need to take to come back to Rakhine, we will not be able to carry forward the process very quickly. As you know, some have come back but not through official channels. And the ones who came back, said that they were not aware of the need to fill in forms and to follow a certain procedure.

Q: Inside Myanmar, among many Myanmar citizens, there is deep rooted discrimination or hatred against so-called Rohingya people or Rohingya Muslims or sometimes Bengali. As a leader of this country, and as a leader of democracy do you have messages for those people of this country?
A: We have been working on it ever since our government took over the administration. One of the first things we did after we came into the administration on the 1st of April was to form a committee for the rule of law and development in Rakhine. Because we realized that the animosity, the distrust and if you like, the fear and hate in Rakhine were rooted in the fact that it’s a region where there’s very little prosperity and very little security. Which is why we formed the committee for the rule of law and development in Rakhine. Since then, we were looking to the long term solution of the Rakhine problem, if you like. We’d like to see it as a challenge, rather than a problem. So as I said, it’s ongoing. You cannot wipe out what has happened in history for more than a century within a few months, not even within a few years. It is something that you have to work on consistently. If you look at other countries, you’ll find that, often, even long standing democracies have problems. Making sure that all the different communities are at peace and I have learned to trust and like each other.

Q: Just recently, Japan Ambassador Mr. Maruyama was invited to Maungdaw and Sittwe to observe the situation. How do you evaluate the role of Japan in this issue?
A: Japan has been very positive and practical in its contribution of aid and assistance to the resolution of the situation in Rakhine. We appreciate it very much. It’s also our policy to make sure that those countries that are providing aid and assistance in that part of our country can go there frequently to see how we are carrying out the projects of which we agreed.

Q: Do you feel that the Japanese stance is a bit different from other countries?
A: Each country’s stance is different. Of course, some countries tend to stick together and some countries act individually. But I think, basically, there are no 2 countries which have taken exactly the same stand. There are always nuances.

Q: What do you believe is the specialty of the Myanmar-Japan relationship?
A: I would not like to put it as a specialty on Japan-Myanmar relations. Because then, it will imply that we don’t have good relations with other countries. But, I think we can say that we have always valued the deep friendship between Japan and Myanmar, which is based on the friendship and understanding between our peoples. I always say that it all comes down to that. There’s nothing that can replace friendship and understanding between people. Government comes and government goes. People go on forever. I think part of our special relationship as you call it with Japan is very much rooted in the fact that there’s a deep friendship between our people.

Q: Moving on to the democracy and development of Myanmar. Two years after the establishment of the new government, can you please describe achievements in per-cents and numbers?
A: Absolutely impossible to explain in percentage and number. Actually, I’ve never thought of it that way. I have to go back to the work “process.” The development of a country is a process. It never comes to an end. And even the very well-developed democracies have challenges that they have to overcome time and again. And new challenges arrive as the world changes. So, we cannot fix the kind of ideal, you said, for democracy. It has to change all the time. But, basically for us, we think that the most important thing is for people to be aware of their part of the responsibility for establishing democracy in the country. It’s not just the responsibility of the government. I think in fact, that’s to which we have democracy. I think our people are a lot less frightened than they used to be before the election. I think you’ll notice that there is much more open criticisms of their government and those connected to the government than they ever used to be in the past. That’s an indication of the fact that democratic freedom has progressed. But we all have to be aware of the fact that the freedom brings with it the responsibility. And we have yet to know for sure how much the responsible part of this process has increased.

Q: As you mentioned, democracy is people-based. Do you feel the mindset of the people has changed compared to 2 years ago?
A: I said earlier that they are less frightened. That means their mindset is changing and we make it a point of repeating again and again, reiterating the fact that they have responsibility as well. Our government uses the word “responsibility” a lot. And I think it’s important.

Q: As you mentioned, Myanmar is not fully democratic because you still have that influence of the military in politics as well. Is this fact making it more difficult to combat the challenging issues such as the Rakhine issue or reconciliation of ethnic minorities?
A: Let’s say that it is an added dimension to the challenges that we have to face. And that’s quite normal. Because as you said, explained, we are not a wholly democratic society yet because our constitution is not wholly democratic.

Q: We haven’t seen physical progress in the advancement of the constitution. Do you have any roadmap to achieve that goal of amendment of the constitution?
A: We do have a roadmap, which is not going to be made public. But, at the same time, I think you will understand that in 2014, when we had a debate in the legislature with regard to the amendment of the constitution, we made it quite clear we want to bring about the amendment through peaceful negotiation and within the framework of the law, because we want to establish sound and healthy principles for the democratic machinery in our country.

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FROM PAGE 4

Q: Do you sometimes find difficulty in balancing the actual situation of Rakhine State or regarding national reconciliation and the power of the military? Are you finding such a dilemma?

A: I don’t quite know what you mean. Because I don’t think that is the strength of the military that has any direct effect on what’s happening in Rakhine. I know that, and I’m sure you know that according to the constitution, elected government cannot direct military operations. So of course, we do not have the kind of overall control that will be exercised by a wholly democratic government.

Q: Recently, 2 Reuters journalists were arrested when covering the Rakhine issue. Myanmar is criticized for limiting the freedom of speech and being undemocratic. The journalists were arrested when they are covering human rights issues in Rakhine state. How do you respond to these criticisms? Is democracy in Myanmar different from that in which the international community believes?

A: They weren’t arrested for covering the Rakhine issue. They were arrested because they broke the Official Secret Act. And I think you are aware of the fact that everybody has free access to the court proceedings. Now, all of this is in accordance with due process. I’m sure the NHK correspondent attends the court proceedings regularly. What is important is that we should be working in accordance with due process and rule of law. They were arrested because they broke the Official Secret Act. We cannot say now whether they were guilty or not. That will be up to the judiciary. It is for the judiciary to decide. They were not arrested for covering the Rakhine issue.

Q: They were not arrested for covering the issue. But, while they were covering the issue...

A: And other issues. I think if you’ve been following the court proceedings, you will understand that there were other issues involved in breaking of the Official Secret Act.

Q: Many parties from the international community are demanding that Myanmar free those 2 journalists immediately. How do you see those voices from international community?

A: As I said, we follow the due process and everybody is free to follow the court proceedings to find out whether or not they are fair, whether or not they are in accordance with the rule of law.

Q: Regarding Myanmar-Japan relations, what kind of role do you expect Japan to play for democratization and the development of Myanmar as a whole, and for economic relations?

A: We expect Japan to play the role of understanding and a longstanding friend.

Q: Many Japanese companies are really willing to come to Myanmar, and to join the Myanmar economy. But they are concerned about the infrastructure, especially the electricity. Can we expect a better environment for those companies?

A: They should study what we have done in the way of infrastructure over the last couple of years. I think they will see that we’ve made considerable progress. Mind you, over the last 2 years, we have concentrated more on political needs than our economic needs. Meaning to say that, we have given priority to the construction of roads and provision of electricity for regions for politically necessary rather than for reasons where it is economically profitable. But, we can now concentrate more on economically profitable areas because we can handle the first priority quite adequately so far.

Q: Do you believe the economic relations of Myanmar and Japan will contribute to the future of Myanmar?

A: I hope it will contribute to the future of Japan as well.

Q: But what about Myanmar?

A: Of course, it will contribute to the future of both countries, if it’s carried out in the right way. As I said, we should be fair. We have to look to each other’s needs and each other’s benefits. Not just our side.

13th Thuta Swesone literary awards presented to winners

THE Swesone Media Group presented the 13th Thuta Swesone literary awards to the winners yesterday at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.

At the ceremony, U Tin Kha (Saya Tekkatho Tin Kha) received the Thuta Swesone Lifetime Achievement Literary Award, which was presented by Sithu Dr. Thaw Kaung, who won five Lifetime Achievement Literary Awards including a Thuta Swesone Lifetime Achievement Literary Award. Hein Latt received the Translation Award presented by writer Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt. Dr. Yi Yi Hla (Yuwady Khin Oo) presented Saya Sean Win Sein with an International Affairs Award. Saya Kyaw Htet Tun received the Biography Award presented by Sithu U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit), patron of Myanmar Writers’ Association. Yangon Region Chief Minister of Myanmar for Rakhine ethnic affairs U Zaw Aye Maung presented Saya Myint Thein Hlaing with the Belle-letters (beautiful or fine writing) Award. Saya Than Win Hlaing received the Reference Literature Award and Dr. Khin Maung Nyo received the Science Literature Award, which were presented by Swesone Media Group chairman Dr. Sithu Dr. Thaw Kaung presents Thuta Swesone Lifetime Achievement Literary Award to U Tin Kha (Saya Tekkatho Tin Kha) in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: HLA MOE

ON the invitation of the representative office of the European Union (EU) in Yangon, a delegation led by Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) Chairman Dr. Win Thein visited the Institute of Public Administration in Ireland and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Estonia from 27 May to 9 June.

During their visit, they met with Director-General of Institute of Public Administration Dr. Marjan O’Sullivan and former Director-General Dr. Brian Cawley.

At the meeting, they discussed the role of civil servants, strategy formation and administration processes. They also focused on the quality framework of the civil servants, techniques in conducting courses, transforming public sector budgeting, the plan for human resources development, along with the leadership and management skills of the civil servants.

Later, the delegation visited Estonia, where they met with Minister of Public Administration Mr. Jaakne Magli and discussed transformational processes of public administration and civil servants. Afterwards, the delegation also met with Ambassador Mr. Mart Tarmak from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia and discussed the implementation of e-Governance.

The delegation also met with Head of Top Civil Service Excellency centre Ms. Evie Limbakh-Pirm at the State Chancellery and discussed the appointment and capacity assessment of civil servants, launching human resources development courses for civil servants and setting a framework for appointing high-ranking officials. The delegation also met with Mayors of Tallinn City Government and Parnu and ICT-based e-Services, where civil servants’ appointments, conducting better training courses and regional administration transformation services were discussed. They also met with Professor Dr. Tłima Randma from Tallinn Technical University and discussed the conducting of training courses for civil servants in each sector.

Next, the delegation met with officials from the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences and discussed police officer appointments, training and providing e-Services. The Union Civil Service Board Chairman and party arrived in Yangon yesterday afternoon.—Myanmar News Agency

UCSB Chairperson visits Civil Service Organisations, Institutes in Ireland, Estonia
Returnees feel better in Rakhine

Following is the second part of the interview with the returnees from Bangladesh conducted by our news team.

Mahmat Eunos
Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in Nga Khu Ya

I was detained (and imprisoned for going illegally) to Bangladesh. I went there two or three times in the past. I returned after going there. I didn’t go there with my family; they are in Nga Khu Ya. Now, my family and I have NVCs. We took (applied for) it, as the NVC is required to go to Maungtaw.

Abdusalem
Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in Nga Khu Ya

I’m the only one who got an NVC. My family still didn’t get it. Although I have an NVC, permission has not yet been granted to go to the shrimp ponds and to fish in the creeks; so, we face some difficulties in making a living.

Nuralem
Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in Nga Khu Ya

If possible, I want to call my relatives in Bangladesh to Myanmar right now. As I live in Myanmar, I abide by the law here. When families from the other side return, I’ll explain to them how to abide by the law. I have no income because fishing works are not permitted.

Hamid Tusong
Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in Nga Khu Ya

My eldest son and four family members fled to Bangladesh. They fled with others when the terrorist incident occurred. I want them to come back. Until now, I don’t know much about the NVC. I think I’ll find out later. However, I have an NVC because I wanted it. There was no intimidation or harassment due to religion or race. But I didn’t explain to others about getting an NVC. I personally think Myanmar is a better place to live. I want to see the people on the other side being called back. Many of them are facing difficulties.

Atwal Hussan
Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in Nga Khu Ya

I was detained when I crossed back into Myanmar from Bangladesh after the incident occurred in 2016. I didn’t hear anyone urging people to return to Myanmar. It is better to stay here. I’m the only one who had an NVC. My family is still in Bangladesh. I want to bring them back. Staying in Nga Khu Ya is better than staying in Bangladesh. No identity was given in the Bangladesh relief camps. Everyone could freely enter and leave. I stayed at the Balukhali camp while in Bangladesh.

Suna Bibi
Formerly from Kyetopyin village tract, Kyetopyin Ywama
Presently in Kyetopyin Village

I was going to Ooshaykya (village) from Kyetopyin, when I was detained. I have family in the village (Kyetopyin). Some of my sons and daughters went to Bangladesh. I want them to come back. Only one of my family members had an NVC. There was no difficulty in obtaining it and I’m thankful for this. Pots, pans and clothing have also been supplied.

Jamail Along
Formerly from Kyetopyin village tract, Kyetopyin Ywama
Presently in Kyetopyin Village

I came back from Bangladesh four to five months ago. I did odd jobs in Bangladesh. If food was provided, it was convenient, but when it was not provided, there were some difficulties in the Bangladesh camp. I stayed in Kutupalong camp in Bangladesh. We were living on the aid provided. I stayed there for a full month.

As I wanted to live in my own village, I came back in a small boat. I have no other intention. I didn’t hear anyone saying anything about returning to Myanmar. I came back here alone. My family stayed behind in Bangladesh. They also want to come back. It was not easy to enter or leave the camp I was in. I had to sneak out. In the past, I operated a power tiller and repaired motorcycles. For now, I’m working as a mechanic for motorcycles for a living. —News Team

If possible, I want to call my relatives to Myanmar to my village. As I live in Myanmar, I abide by the law here. When families from the other side return, I’ll explain to them how to abide by the law.
Gov’t ready to compensate squatters in Hanthawaddy Int’l Airport project area

THE Bago Region government is ready to pay compensation to squatters in the Hanthawaddy project area, one of the region's cabinet members said at a coordination meeting held on Friday.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein said at the meeting that efforts have been made since 2016 to conduct a population survey to determine the number of squatters in the area, in order to provide compensation to them. Now, the process has reached its final stage and the government has completely prepared the compensation according to the law.

Efforts are being made to implement the Hanthawaddy International Airport project with Japan’s long-term loans as quickly as possible.

According to its plan, the government is going to pay compensation for both squatters and crops in the airport project area. The government granted Ks492.7 million in the 2016-2017 financial year (FY) to pay moving expenses and compensation for squatters and Ks500 million in the 2017-2018 FY, totalling Ks992.7 million.

The details of the programme were discussed at the coordination meeting held on 8 June at the office of the Bago Region government. The Hanthawaddy International Airport project is the largest of the three airport projects being undertaken to accommodate the increasing number of international travellers to Myanmar. Located in the Bago Region, some 48 miles north east of Yangon, the international airport is projected to handle up to 12 million passengers a year. It takes some 90 minutes by car from Bago to Yangon. —Hein Htet (IPRD) ■

Magway Region needs more garbage collection equipment, staff

THE Magway Region Development Affairs Committee said it can collect only 60 per cent of garbage every day due to insufficient equipment and staff shortage, committee head U Htin Aung said.

Curvaturely generated collection is being carried out with the use of 15 garbage collection vehicles—14 owned by the development affairs committee and one donated by the Magway Region government.

The development affairs committee is not in a position to collect all the garbage due to the lack of sufficient vehicles and staff members. We carry out daily garbage collection in markets and restaurants which generate more garbage and we collect garbage on alternate days in wards which generate less garbage,“ U Htin Aung added.

“The committee needs to buy five additional waste collection vehicles and appoint more staff. It will buy the vehicles and appoint more staff in the respective fiscal years. The committee will hit its goal in the next three years,” he said.

The committee regularly disposes of waste into a ravine some two miles from Magway.—Zaw Zaw (Myothit) ■

Myanmar National Airlines flight UB001 stalled in icing incident

MYANMAR National Airlines (MNA) flight UB001, which departed from Yangon International Airport for Singapore’s Changi International Airport at 7:18 a.m. on 7 June, encountered icing conditions that caused the plane to decelerate rapidly, according to an announcement made by the airline.

The announcement said severe icing occurred within 50 minutes after the flight took off from Yangon International Airport, when the plane was some 30 miles west of Myeik. Due to the severe icing conditions, the air speed declined rapidly, triggering an alarm from the plane’s computer system.

The auto pilot was switched off at an altitude of 37,000 feet, and the plane descended to an altitude of 25,000 feet to regain control. The air traffic control was informed about the emergency action taken to assure the passengers’ safety, and the plane continued on its journey, landing in Singapore at 11:40 a.m. local standard time.

When the incident occurred, the pilot reported to the air traffic control authorities, and took safety and precautionary measures without causing any material or personnel damage.—Shin Min ■

Tainted food burned in Yinmarbin District

THE Consumer Dispute Resolution Committee in cooperation with Market Monitoring Organization torched foods that are unfit to consume at the Consumer Affairs Department in Yinmarbin yesterday.

The foods that are unfit to consume were taken off shelf by the Department of Food and Drug Administration.

In-charge of the District Consumer Affairs Department Daw Khaing Moh Moh explained the seizure of expired food items and foods that are unfit to consume by the department in line with the decision of its organization before torching them for public safety.—Myint Naing Soe (Hti Hlaing Myay)/Myanmar Digital News ■
Utilize land effectively to promote economy

Today is the time to promote businesses including the agriculture, livestock and mining sectors, making the best use of the land.

By Ye Myat Aung

INCRO humanitarian workers have affirmed that they have built their own cultures based upon their background and environment. Every nation has its own culture which distinguishes from other nations. These cultural heritages transmitted from generation to generation and are constantly recreated by communities and groups, in response to their environments, their interaction with nature and their history; thereby provide them with a sense of identity and continuity which can promote respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. Thus, it is imperative to safeguard such these long-standing traditions and cultural heritages for the next generations.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated there with – those communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. The ICH can be referred to traditions or living expressions inherited by humanity from its ancestors and passed on to its descendants. As such oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or those concerning the human body and its health, as well as traditional craftsmanship.

Purposes of the Convention

This convention has been launched, with the aim of safeguarding the intangible heritage; ensuring respect for the intangible cultural heritage of the communities, groups and individuals concerned; and raising awareness at the local, national and international levels of the importance of the intangible cultural heritage, providing for international cooperation and assistance.

Convention for Safeguarding
of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2013)

The Convention is a UNESCO treaty adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference in 2003. The Convention concerning the safeguarding of World Cultural and Natural Heritage – the 1972 Convention – is aimed at better understanding the intangible culture around the world, and safeguarding the groups, representations, expressions, knowledge and techniques these communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as an integral part of their cultural heritage.

Five Domains of ICH

Five Domains of ICH

According to the definition of the General Conference of UNESCO in 2003, the “intangible cultural heritage”, as defined in the following five domains: (a) oral traditions and expressions including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage; (b) performing arts; (c) social practices, rituals and festive events; (d) knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; (e) traditional craftsmanship.

Efforts should be made to ensure the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritages in the country.

Preservation Process

Myanmar is ethnically diverse country with over 100 ethnic races in the world, and they also have their own traditions and customs. Myanmar has signed the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention of 2003, and the Government has taken steps to do research and adopt policies which can make a law for preservation of the country’s intangible cultural heritages. It is very crucial for the authority concerned to preserve these existent on oral, ethnic culture and traditions, and to formulate effective policy which can be implemented. For this purpose, the MoBEC for research works to be carried out in line with the needs of the local people.

In doing so, cooperation is needed to make a list of intangible cultural heritage. With the cooperation of the enthusiasts and responsible officials from NGOs, ethnic literature and culture groups should be provided with better protection of the elements and traditions in Myanmar.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is striving to protect the heritages and reinvigorating the legends, languages, performing arts, social customs, traditions, knowledge on the nature and the universe, and traditional handicrafts in all regions across the country. Moreover, the authority concerned has formed many committees with the participations of experts in order to take steps in protecting the intangible cultural heritage and ancient artifacts and archives.

The MoBEC has supported the activities and preserved the performing arts, crafts, music, oral traditions and the instruments of the ethnic races, and cooperation is of crucial importance in enhancing the public awareness of the cultural protection measures taken by the community.

With the aim of safeguarding the cultural heritage, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has worked hard. The Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law says, “A Land shall comply with the following conditions: The enterprise shall comply with the law. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has worked hard to ensure the protection of the heritages and the rights of the people, and to improve their socio-economic status. The enterprise, after announcement two years ago, the ministry formed the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law, 2012, as they have not been utilized since they were acquired four years ago. The decision comes after the ministry’s warning two years ago that it would make inquiries into permitted farmland that has not yet been utilized and will revoke the permit of the owner in accordance with the law. The Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law, 2012, it was found that rules and regulations of the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Committees.

Two years ago, the ministry urged those who own vacant and virgin lands to register them at their respective state or regional level. The Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Committees.

If their lands are registered, when agricultural production is increased, the ministry will be able to determine if the registered lands are carrying out their part are committed to managing the land effectively for the country’s economy.
Rubber production to decline next year due to the low price of rubber this year

RUBBER production is expected to decline next year because of an unexpected rubber market this year. The manageable-scale rubber farm owners near Thatuwadaddy town, Thaton Township, Mon State have expressed a lack of interest in rubber cultivation because the price of rubber has declined in the market this year, compared with last year.

“We don’t want to cultivate rubber again. We can hire only two workers for 10 acres of rubber farming. There is a scarcity of rubber-tapping workers. Therefore, we have to pay them higher salaries. At the same time, the price of rubber has declined, while the rubber latex production has also declined. Also, we can produce only lower-quality rubber even when we use fertilizers. Our rubber farming has shut down now because of the rains. We will be at a loss if the price of rubber declines again next year,” said a local rubber farm owner.

The price of rubber was Ks775 per pound as of May. Now, the price of rubber has declined to Ks720 per pound. The price of rubber is unstable everyday. Last year this time, the price of rubber was Ks840 per pound, said a local rubber trader from Thein Seik ward of Thaton Township. Last year, the authorities discussed the construction of rubber refinery factories to produce high-quality rubber, to provide technical assistance and loans to rubber cultivators and to set up a stable rubber price in Mon State. However, the authorities could not implement the projects until now and the manageable-scale cultivators are facing difficulties in continuing with their rubber plantations. The rubber plantation is the main plantation in Mon State. There are more than 150,000 acres of rubber plantation in Mon State. —Khon (Win Pa)

Myanmar-Bangladesh cross-border trade exceeds US$4 million in current FY

THE value of bilateral border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh amounted to more than US$4 million in the current transitional fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The total value of border trade between the two countries increased by $1.775 million as against the same period last year when bilateral border trade was $2.337 million.

The two countries conduct border trade mainly through the Sittway and Maungtaw cross-border points of entry.

Myanmar’s exports to Bangladesh are always greater than its imports.

Between 1 April and 1 June this year, Myanmar sold its domestically produced products valued at $4.095 million to Bangladesh and it bought commodities worth $0.017 million from the neighbouring country.

During the period, Myanmar exported commodities worth $2.026 million to the South Asian country from the Sittway border trade camp, and goods worth $2.069 million through the Maungtaw border gate. This year saw an increase in the value of Myanmar-Bangladesh trade from both borders.

At the Myanmar-Bangladesh border gates, ginger, peanuts, mung beans, dried plums, garlic, rice, saltwater prawns and fish, bamboo, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, knitwear, beverages, tobacco, plastics, wood and products made from human hair are the marketable items. —Shwe Khine

Consumer goods imports by public sector decrease this FY

THE public sector’s imports of consumer goods over the first 62 days of this financial year (FY) reached US$12.942 million, a decrease in value by $7.432 million against that of last year, the commerce ministry reported.

This time last year, the public sector imported a wide range of consumer products amounting to $19.474 million. Despite a decrease in the import of capital goods by the public sector, the private sector imports of the same products showed an increase in value by $7.755 million.

From 1 April through 1 June this year, the country’s total imports of consumer products were $741.547 million, a slight increase in value of $6.323 million in comparison with the same period last year. Myanmar carries out overseas trade with neighbouring China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh, Southeast Asian countries, some European countries and Asian countries. It largely imports three major groups of products, comprising intermediate products, capital goods and consumer goods from international countries. Roughly 80% of the total external trade is conducted through shipping. During the period, Myanmar also imported capital goods worth $1.309 billion and intermediate goods worth $1.426 billion, increasing more than $446 million compared with the same period last year. —Rhine Khant

Myanmar, Norway conduct negotiation meeting to promote trade and investment

By Nyein Neyin

NORWEGIAN Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Tone Tines and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) chairman U Zaw Min Win conducted a negotiation meeting to promote trade and investment at the UMFCCI office on Friday.

At the meeting, Myanmar invited Norway’s advanced technology companies to invest in Myanmar. They also discussed receiving assistance from Norway to solve the challenge of a lack of expert workers and weaknesses in the country’s infrastructure, according to the UMFCCI.

Some Norwegian companies, including Telenor, which is one of the telecommunications companies that has already invested in Myanmar; electricity and energy companies; industrial manufacturing companies and insurance companies from Norway are preparing to invest in Myanmar, said Ms. Tone Tines.

Moreover, Myanmar needs to take some measure to ensure the ease of doing business. If Myanmar can do this within a short period, there will be more foreign direct investment here, she added.

A Norway-Myanmar economic council is being conducted to promote the Norway-Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry Association. Recently, UMFCCI and Norway agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding to promote a bilateral economic relationship, said U Zaw Min Win.

UMFCCI always has a regular meeting, which is conducted every four months with the International Chambers of Commerce Associations, present within the country. At the regular meeting, they usually discuss difficulties in their business operations. UMFCCI always cooperates with the government to solve those difficulties.

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Anti-Corruption Commission holds press conference in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE-1

The commission is an independent entity formed and assigned a specific duty by the government and it can freely conduct its works according to the law. As per the 2012 Ja- karta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies, commissions like ours have political freedom, freedom of investigation, and freedom to stand independently.

Freedom from bias is the highest norm maintained by the commission in conducting its duties and responsibilities. Investigations are conducted free from political influences. We took special care of this. We specifically say we don't tolerate any influence in our work. As the commission is an independent entity that can stand on its own on the subject (anti-corruption) matter, we have our norms in making decisions. These are being fair, creating good characteristics, freedom from bias and mutual respect. The commission investigates complaints in accordance with the law.

As the commission observes only the Anti-Corruption Law, it does not have the responsibility or power to file legal proceedings. The findings and outcomes of its investigation are to be handled in the following three ways: rejecting the complaint according to section 28 (a) (1); informing the head of department to take action according to the public servant rules as prescribed in section 30 (b); and assigning that a case be opened according to section 28 (a) (2).

A "bribe" is an important word in the enacted law. Bribes do not involve only money, material and gifts, but also accepting services and entertainment without paying for them appropriately. Those who have the power and authority should be aware of this. Furthermore, bribery includes accepting and giving, so businesspersons are asked to be aware of this as well. We took special care of this. We specifically say we don't tolerate any influence in our work.

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Israel government donates water purifiers, technology to UEHRD CITF

A CEREMONY was held in Sky Star Hotel, Yangon yesterday evening where Israel Government donated water purifiers and technology to Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) Construction and Infrastructure Task Force (CITF).

At the ceremony, UEHRD chief coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet delivered an opening speech and Israel Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Zonshine explained about the donation.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung also delivered a speech. Speeches of appreciation were then delivered by Rakhine state minister for Chin ethnic affairs U Pon Bway on behalf of Rakhine State government and CITF leader U Kyaw Win.

Afterwards, the four water purifiers were presented by Israel Ambassador to Myanmar and received by UEHRD chief coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet. UEHRD chief coordinator then transferred the water purifiers to CITF.

The water purifiers with a capacity of purifying 500 liters per hour will be used in Rakhine State it is learnt.

The ceremony was attended by officials from Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, officials from UEHRD and invited guests.—Myanmar News Agency

Vaccination drive to counter anthrax planned in Meiktila Township

THE Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department will conduct a vaccination drive to counter anthrax in Meiktila Township.

In the first week of May, five people were infected with anthrax after they butchered an anthrax-infected cow in Zayakgon village, Meiktila Township in Mandalay region. Currently, they have been hospitalised.

“The prevention activities to control anthrax are being conducted from 4 May. We provided free vaccinations to animals and medical treatment to the animals, which are not feeling well in the village. We have separated into four groups, led by the district officer. Each group will provide vaccinations and health education to the villagers. We are aiming to cover the entire township,” said Dr. Maung Maung, director of Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department.

Anthrax among animals is very common in Myanmar. Anthrax is also known by other names depending on the region. Anthrax mostly occurs during the rainy season. The animals die of this disease when they devour the green grass in which pupa is hidden.

The Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department provided vaccinations to 18,373 animals of 5,715 owners in 121 villages of Meiktila Township from the first week May until the first week of June 2018.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Transfer ceremony of Mandalay weather radar station held

A WEATHER radar station, built on Paleik-Saga Inn road, Kyaukmyan Village, Mandalay city, was transferred during a ceremony on Friday morning.

The transfer ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Japan’s Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama and Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Mr. Masayuki Karasawa.

“The Mandalay weather radar station can measure inland rainfall and wind speed. With the help of radar, the weather situation can be investigated more accurately. The image of the clouds can be taken from the ground. Also, images can be obtained from the satellite. Combining these two will enable timely weather forecasting and announcements,” said Director-General U Kyaw Moe Oo of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH).

In the past, weather reports were made once a day, but now five reports are made daily between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., in addition to sea reports at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

“The advantage of the weather radar is the ability to see in 3-D (three dimension) an approaching storm, allowing a more accurate investigation. In the past, accurate analysis and forecast could not be made using only satellite images,” said DMH (upper Myanmar) Director U Kyaw Lin Oo.

The Mandalay weather radar station is the third weather radar station constructed with the assistance of JICA. The work was started in the end of 2015 on the 50 metre (12-storey) high weather station.

The Kyaukphyu weather radar station was opened on 9 October 2015, while the Yangon weather radar station was opened on 24 October 2016.

The three weather radar stations were built with the assistance of JICA, at a cost of more than $38 million.—Khaing Sat Wai

Gusty winds slam into Hainggyigyun Township

POWERFUL winds hit Pyinkhayine village in Hainggyigyun in Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region on 8 June. Three houses were destroyed in strong winds, and all the flattened houses are under urgent repair to alleviate the plight of storm victims. No casualties were reported during the disaster. Governmental officials and local police rushed to the scene to carry out relief operations. Hainggyigyun and its environs are prone to natural disasters like storms in monsoon season, it is learnt.—Kyaw Thu Hein (Hainggyi) / Myanmar Digital News
SINGAPORE — Singapore's reputation for rigid law and order was seen as a major factor for being chosen to host Tuesday's US-North Korea summit — and the tiny city-state is determined not to disappoint.

Police, including elite units of Nepalese Gurkhas, will flood the streets and enforce a virtual lockdown of key sections of the city, blocking off roads to facilitate the historic face-to-face between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

In order to preempt any disruptive protests, a blanket ban on bringing flares, banners or loudhailers anywhere near the key summit venues.

Concrete barricades will spring up at key sites and mechanical metal flares, banners and loudhailers at some summit venues.

The police deploy concrete barricades rare even by Singapore standards, and could disrupt the largely orderly daily life of the city's 5.6 million residents.

Music teacher Janice Tan, 28, said the security arrangements were 'terribly inconvenient', particularly due to expected road closures downtown.

"I care about world peace but I would prefer if they took their meeting elsewhere," she told AFP.

Flares, loudhailers banned

The decision to ban flares, banners and loudhailers at some summit venues is perhaps driven by concerns that even in a city where protests are rare and require a police permit, some may still be tempted to come out onto the streets.

Sites covered by these restrictions include Sentosa, the tourist island where the leaders will meet Tuesday, and a leafy diplomatic district that takes in the Shangri-La hotel where Trump is expected to stay.

But the extreme measures are likely to be rare even by Singaporean standards, and could disrupt the largely orderly daily life of the city's 5.6 million residents.

But that could spell problems for travellers using Singapore's Changi Airport — one of the world's busiest international hubs — with aviation authorities warning of delays.

There have already been signs that authorities are nervous ahead of the meeting.

An Australian former terror suspect, who was refused entry into Singapore this week and deported home, said he believed it was because of the looming summit.

"If they took their meeting anywhere, while plainclothes security officers — both American and Singaporean — were spotted around a bar overlooking the Singapore Strait.

While the security may be extreme, analysts think it is needed given the unprecedented nature of the summit.

"By and large Singaporeans are used to seeing men in uniform," Graham Ong-Webb, a research fellow at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, told AFP.

This time round, they might balk slightly at the number of security assets on the ground — but it is necessary."— AFP

Sadness at Viet Nam noodle shop where Bourdain dined with Obama

HANOI — The restaurant in Hanoi's leafy Old Quarter soared to fame after a 2016 sit-down between Obama and Bourdain for his CNN show.

The owner of a Hanoi noodle shop where Anthony Bourdain dined with US president Barack Obama expressed her shock and sorrow on Saturday over the death of the globetrotting American celebrity chef.

"I'm still thinking I'm dreaming, which I can't believe," Tran Thi Huong, a 32-year-old owner of Bun Cha Huong Lien restaurant in the Vietnam's capital's leafy Old Quarter, told Reuters news agency.

"I'm still feeling it... I'm heartbroken over his death," Huong, who was only 24 when she opened her noodle shop in 2014, said.

"Bun Cha Huong Lien restaurant has been in existence for 10 years. We have never had American tourists. We only serve Vietnamese customers... But when Obama and Bourdain came, we had to make special arrangements for them. We even got American tourists back then. It was an unforgettable experience..."

"We were shocked and surprised. Bourdain was our first foreign guest in his CNN show. It was unforgettable..."

"I can't believe he died. I'm still feeling it," Huong said, wiping away tears.

"I'm devastated. Bourdain was very kind and I am very sad as a noodle shop owner..."

Bun Cha Huong Lien, the restaurant where Bourdain and Obama shared a noodle dish, was closed on Saturday in response to the news of Bourdain's death in New York on Friday.

"I wanted to visit Hanoi but I was too scared to go there because I knew that Bourdain was drunk there," said passenger Pham Ngoc Chinh, 24, who has never been to Hanoi.

"It is very sad..."

"This time round, they might balk slightly at the number of security assets on the ground — but it is necessary."— AFP
Lost John Coltrane album set for release

LOS ANGELES — Missing for more than 50 years, recordings by jazz legend John Coltrane leading the quartet behind his masterpiece “A Love Supreme” are coming out as a posthumous album.

Impulse! Records announced Friday that it will release “Both Directions at Once: The Lost Album,” recorded in 1964 and never heard before publicly on 29 June.

The new album is “like finding a new room in the Great Pyramid,” 87-year-old Sonny Rollins, Coltrane’s friend and the last in his generation of iconic jazz saxophonists, said in a statement.

Coltrane recorded the seven tracks with his classic quartet — Jimmy Garrison on bass, Elvin Jones on drums and McCoy Tyner on piano — at the New Jersey studio of jazz enthusiast Rudy Van Gelder, an initially makeshift space in a living room that became a go-to spot for artists.

The quartet would return to the Van Gelder studio in late 1964 to record “A Love Supreme,” Coltrane’s exploration of his spiritual quest toward happiness that is often described as the greatest jazz album of all time.

The lost tapes were discovered by the family of Coltrane’s first wife, Juanita Naima Coltrane, who had preserved them at the family home in Queens.

Two songs on the upcoming album have never been heard in any form and feature Coltrane performing on soprano saxophone, not the tenor for which he was better known. The recordings also include an alternative version of “Impressions,” one of Coltrane’s better-known compositions without the usual piano.

Coltrane, who died in 1967 from cancer, was at the forefront of the free jazz movement, which broke away from the conventional confines of the music to encourage flowing experimentation.

Coltrane took jazz in a further fresh direction by turning toward India, incorporating the raga form and the Hindu spiritual tradition into his music and lifestyle.

The jazz legend found an artistic home in Impulse! Records, joining the fledgling label with his big band-style 1961 album “Africa/Brass” before his recordings with the quartet that also included “Coltrane” and “Crescent.” — AFP

Queen honours Emma Thompson, Kenny Dalglish

LONDON — Actress Emma Thompson and football legend Kenny Dalglish were on Friday named in Queen Elizabeth II’s honours list, but survivors and emergency responders to the Grenfell Tower disaster were notably absent as the first anniversary of the fire approaches.

Oscar-winner Thompson, famed for her roles in “Harry Potter” and “The Remains of the Day,” has been granted the title of Dame in the annual roll call of the great and the good of British society.

The 59-year-old — described in the official citation of the honours committee as one of the UK’s most versatile and celebrated actresses — is joined by actors Tom Hardy and Keira Knightley, who received the Order of the British Empire “for services to drama”.

Meanwhile, 67-year-old Dalglish, who won three European Cups as a Liverpool player and managed the club during the 1989 Hillsborough disaster when 96 fans were killed in a stadium crush, was awarded a knighthood. The Scot becomes Sir Kenny.

It is in recognition of “services to football, charity and the city of Liverpool” after his decades-long battle for justice for the victims of the tragedy, and for his work with his wife Marina’s charity which has raised more than £10 million ($13.4 million, 11.4 million euros) for breast cancer sufferers.

“I am hugely grateful,” Dalglish said.

“The enjoyment that I have derived from being involved in football for as long as I have is outstripped only by the sense that I’ve been hugely fortunate to have the right people around me at all times.”

Absence of Grenfell names

The government has been forced to defend its decision to leave those involved in the London tower block fire which claimed 71 lives on June 14 off the list. As well as prominent figures in the arts and sciences, honours are frequently bestowed on members of the emergency services and campaigners.

In December, an editorial on The Independent website said the failure to name the “heroes” of Grenfell in the New Year’s honours list “beggers belief”.

A government spokeswoman insisted that those involved in the blaze, rescue efforts and its aftermath would be honoured “at the earliest opportunity”.

“We have consulted with community groups and the emergency services to agree the right approach to recognising those involved, considering inquests and investigations where appropriate,” she said. “Our approach will be community driven, time appropriate and sensitive to the ongoing local recovery.”

An inquiry into the fire is currently underway, probing allegations that unsafe building materials fuelled the inferno, but is not expected to submit its findings until at least 2019.

Police also said on Thursday they were investigating London’s fire service over their order for residents to “stay put” during the inferno. The honours list is the third not to name key Grenfell Tower figures, although the monarch’s 2017 birthday list was announced just two days after the fire.

However, former assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Mark Rowley, who led the response to the wave of deadly terror attacks which swept Britain last year, was honoured in the 2018 list with a knighthood “for services to policing”.

Queen Elizabeth — who turned 92 in April — did not celebrate the occasion on Saturday — honoured remarkable women on the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage, making them 49 per cent of the honorees.

War correspondent Kate Adie, Sister Imelda Poole, president of European anti-trafficking network Renate, and former World War II nurse Rosemary Powell, who at 103 is the oldest on the list, are among the women to be honoured. Twenty-year-old alpine skier Menna Fitzpatrick, Britain’s most successful winter Paralympian, is the youngest on this year’s list. — AFP

Amanda Seyfried to star in ‘You Should Have Left’

LOS ANGELES — “Mamma Mia” star Amanda Seyfried has joined the cast of thriller “You Should Have Left”.

The film, written and to be directed by David Koepp, also features actor Kevin Bacon and will be produced by Blumhouse Productions. Koepp, an industry veteran, is best known for writing films such as “Mission: Impossible”, “Jurassic Park”, “Spider-Man”, “War of the Worlds” and others. The film, which is expected to start shooting later this year, follows the “unsettling story of a wealthy man with a younger wife and a 6-year-old child. Mis-trust and suspicion characterize their marriage while they are in a remote location that may or may not be obeying all the physical laws of the universe.”

Bacon will portray the wealthy man, while Seyfried will play his wife, an actress with a secret, reported Variety. — PTI
Trophy hunting: World Cup replicas selling fast in Viet Nam

HANOI—In a dusty workshop on the outskirts of Hanoi, workers busily mould, set and spray hundreds of replica World Cup trophies as orders flood in ahead of next week’s tournament.

Demand in football-mad Viet Nam is soaring for the hand-made plaster models of the real 18-carat gold trophy that will go to the winners of the month-long World Cup hosted by Russia that starts on Thursday.

Craftsman Vuong Hong Nhat has been making the foot-tall replicas since the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, perfecting his hand-carved design over several months to give as gifts.

“Initially I didn’t want to sell the trophies, I was just trying to feed my passion for football and give them to friends and family,” said the 57-year-old Manchester United fan. But they proved so popular he now sells them and expects to receive 3,000 orders this year — triple the number he made in 2014.

With just three assistants in his small workshop he’s struggling to keep up with demand.

“I work all day to fill the orders, but it’s not enough. I have to work until midnight,” said Nhat, exhausted, as workers pour plaster models of the real 18-carat gold trophy that will go to the winners of the month-long World Cup hosted by Russia that starts on Thursday.

“Drum Tao,” a world-famous Japanese taiko percussion and dance troupe, is joining Tokyo’s efforts to introduce the city’s wide-ranging nightlife to foreign tourists on what they enjoy about the city’s nightlife, including restaurants, theaters and sporting events, to better cater to their interests while encouraging them to part with their cash.

The central government is joining Tokyo’s efforts to increase spending by tourists at night. Despite the rapid increase in tourism, the average amount spent per traveler has declined 30 per cent compared with the same period last year. Since April last year, the Tokyo Metropolitan government said it planned to survey foreign tourists on what they enjoy about the city’s nightlife, including restaurants, theaters and sporting events, to better cater to their interests while encouraging them to part with their cash.

The original Jules Rimet Trophy was stolen in Brazil when the back wall of its case was removed by thieves in 1983 and has never been recovered.

For Nhat’s customers, the replicas add a sprinkling of glory before the World Cup.

“The original Jules Rimet Trophy was stolen in Brazil when the back wall of its case was removed by thieves in 1983 and has never been recovered.

For Nhat’s customers, the replicas add a sprinkling of glory before the World Cup.

“Holding the trophy I feel like Zidane (when he) won the World Cup in 1998,” France national team supporter Dang Viet Duy said. “If they do, I’ll give my trophies away for free,” said Nhat.—AFP

TOKYO—Businesses in Tokyo are looking to get foreign visitors spending their time and cash on the city’s wide-ranging nightlife options.

Travel agencies are arranging special events for foreign tourists such as Japanese taiko drum performances, while hotels are extending their business hours to allow guests to socialize into the early hours.

But while efforts are being made to boost the ailing dark economy, the lack of late-night public transport remains a major obstacle to tourists getting a taste of what Tokyo has to offer — especially when the only option after 1 am is waiting for the first train four hours later, or taking an expensive taxi to their hotel.

Since last year, travel agency JTB Corp has joined with “Drum Tao,” a world-famous Japanese taiko percussion and dance troupe, to entertain foreign visitors.

Performances of the traditional Japanese drumming were held in September and October 2017. Due to their popularity, the shows are being held from May through November this year, a fourfold increase in the number of performances from the year before.

According to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, foreign tourists visiting Japan last year spent about 150,000 yen ($1,370) per person. This is well below the 200,000 yen amount required to hit the 8 trillion yen government wants to be injected into the economy by tourists. Designating tourism as a key growth area, the Japanese government aims to attract 40 million overseas visitors annual to the country by 2020, and 60 million by 2030.

In January, the Tokyo metropolitan government said it planned to survey foreign tourists on what they enjoy about the city’s nightlife, including restaurants, theaters and sporting events, to better cater to their interests while encouraging them to part with their cash.

The central government is joining Tokyo’s efforts to increase spending by tourists at night. Despite the rapid increase in tourism, the average amount spent per traveler has declined in recent years.

“We keep in mind that we want visitors to Japan to enjoy themselves during the nighttime,” said the hotel’s public relations department. The number of customers using the bar area since renovations started until the end of March has risen 30 per cent compared with the same period last year. Since April last year, the Tokyo National Museum in Ueno has extended its opening times by one hour on Fridays and Saturdays, to 9 pm. It is not only trying to accommodate people who finish work earlier as part of Japan’s labour reforms but is also attempting to draw more foreign tourists. But the problem of a lack of public transport remains, as well as concerns about noise and security issues in some districts.

Unlike places such as New York City, which has a 24-hour subway service, Japan’s transport network shuts down for the night to allow for maintenance and equipment checks.

In December, a group of Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers proposed an experiment that would have allowed trains and buses to operate past midnight and into the early hours of the morning as a way of making life for late-night revelers more convenient. But the Tokyo metropolitan government-run subway operator pushed back, saying it would be difficult to operate subways around the clock.

—Kyodo News
GFA draw with Sagaing in Week 15 MNL

IN Week 15 of the MPT Myanmar National League 2018, GFA FC played to a 2-2 draw with Sagaing United yesterday at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Sagaing United’s line-up included keeper A Sin Hmwe, Thet Naung Htwe, Aung Hlaing Win, Ye Myo Myat, Thaizin Win, Khunung Zaw Htwe, Akanmizdie Barnabas Friday, Myo Thu Win, Thiha Zaw, Captain Mandjombe and Bamba Gaoussou.

GFA’s line up included Goalie Nyein Min Oo, Captain Atanga Elfa, Mg Lio, Pyone Cho, Zaw Lin, Shwe Win Tun, Soe Min Tun, Philip Tun, Yin Aung Kyaw, Jordan Nya Ko and Owun Omololu Emmanuel.

There were many near goal chances from both teams throughout the first half, but neither team could convert these to goals and the result was 0-0 till the end of the first half.

Sagaing changed some tactics in the second half and played much better than they did in the first half.

At the 59-minute mark, Sagaing gained a starting goal scored by Friday with his strong upward kick that was acquired by a big mistake made by the GFA goalkeepers.

But the result didn’t last for too long. GFA equalised at 63 minutes and the goal was scored by the team’s star Mung Theih Pau with his low and accurate kick.

Again at the 76th minute, Sagaing got another goal, scored by their expatriate player Friday along with the continuous support of his teammates.

Two minutes later, GFA equalised the goal with a strong kick from Mung Theih Pau. The final whistle blew and the match ended with a 2-2 draw, which was a real good one with forward and backward plays.

After 15 matches, GFA stands at 11th place with 11 points and Sagaing stands at 10th place with 12 points.

—Lynn Thi (Tgi)

Japan facing tough World Cup task in tight Group H

TOKYO — Japan will have to navigate a competitive group featuring three opponents widely tipped to have their measure if they are to again reach the World Cup’s round of 16 in Russia.

Not only will an aging Samurai Blue squad have to overcome the self-inflicted instability caused by changing manager just two months ahead of the global soccer showcase, they will also have to deal with a trio of formidable foes.

Group H features a Polish team dripping with quality, a Colombian squad looking to further cement their place among South America’s elite and a Senegal side that boasts one of the world’s premier attacking talents.

Japan’s fans are right to envision a path into the knockout stage for their boys and hope for a first-ever quarterfinal appearance. If the team can take points from early tests against Colombia and Senegal, they may meet a Poland team that has already booked a place in the round of 16, but rarely do such fairytales play out.

In their first match against Colombia on 19 June in Saransk, Japan faced a team that scraped into their continent’s last automatic qualification place, needing a final day draw with Peru to reach their second straight World Cup finals.

Against Colombia Japan has a two-loss, one-draw all-time record, the last meeting coming at the 2014 World Cup when a Jackson Martinez second-half double set up by the irresistible James Rodriguez helped the South Americans embarrass Japan 4-1. After reaching the quarterfinals in 2014, the country’s best World Cup finish, world No 16 Colombia will lean on its high-octane attacking duo of Rodriguez and Radamel Falcao in looking to advance further in Russia.—Kyodo News

Hozumi-Ninomiya reach women’s doubles final at French Open

PARIS — Eri Hozumi and Makoto Ninomiya on Friday became the first all-Japanese pair to advance to the women’s doubles final at a Grand Slam tournament with a straight-sets win over Chan Hao-ching of Taiwan and Yang Zhaoxuan of China in the French Open semifinals.

The unseeded Japanese duo took 1 hour, 3 minutes to complete the 6-2, 6-2 victory over the eighth-seeded pair on the Suzanne Lenglen Court at Roland Garros.

“I can’t express how happy I am. I like playing with a Japanese because I find it easier to communicate and think,” Hozumi said. “I’m so glad that I was able to come this far with Ninomiya.”

The 24-year-olds will face Czech No 6 seeds Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniaková on Sunday in a bid to become the first Japanese pair to win a Grand Slam title since 1995. Kosei Kamo and Atsushi MiyagI accomplished the feat when they won the men’s doubles crown at the 1955 US National Championships, now the US Open.

“I’m really happy but we haven’t won the tournament yet,” Ninomiya said. “I want to win one more.”

Hozumi and Ninomiya dominated the semi from the outset. They took five straight games en route to claiming the first set, and broke a 2-2 tie in the second as they closed out the match by winning four games in a row.

Hozumi last year reached the Australian Open women’s doubles semifinals alongside compatriot Miyu Kato, while Ninomiya and partner Renata Voracova of the Czech Republic made it to the semis at Wimbledon.—Kyodo News

Shan United confident about playing Yadanarbon today

DEFENDING Champions Shan United will play against Yadanarbon United at Mandalay Stadium in Mandalay today.

Shan United is confident and will give it their best, as they are the defending champions, according to Shan United FC.

Its head coach Marjan Sekulovski revealed his feelings ahead of the match against Yadanarbon on the Shan United FC page. “In my view, there is no differentiation between foreigners and local players. For me, there are only good players and not good enough players. Nationality and names are not important for me. Although Yadanarbon have no foreign players, most of the players are national players and youngsters. We have been working to give our best performance and a good result on the pitch,” he said.

“I’m never totally satisfied with any performance because I believe we can play much better as a team. But I’m satisfied with the results. We have to show the same performance that we did in the match against Ayevarawady United and in the first-half of the match against Sagaing United,” he added. He also said that the biggest problem of the team was the physical condition of two very important players, Hein Thiha Zaw and Zin Min Tun, who have been sidelined for some time due to their injuries.

“Their recovery is taking place very slowly and we can’t use our best line-up. But I’m confident that the players who will play will show their best performance and try to grab a good result in the coming match,” he remarked.—Lynn Thi (Tgi)
The Breath of June’s Early Rain

MAY has waved goodbye to us. The smell of May’s wind is slowly fading. Fading away. As it fades away, the pure serenity steps in immediately. Again, it is telling in the chilly breezes of early June. Rain is here with us now. To make the nature green and to paint the classy scene. We will get lost in the story of this year’s rain once again. So, let us get ready for it.

There are people who feel the rain while the others just get wet. Although most of the people do not like getting soaked, they still cannot ignore the tune of the rain. Honestly, the sound of the rain needs no translation. When the rain comes, we hardly ever see blue skies with pink clouds. Because the achromatic skies are the season’s best supporters. And we can always tell the weather by its signs in the endless sky above us. When we see rolls of huge clouds in the sky, it is certain that the showers are near. It is the huge clouds which bring us the cool vibes but warm feelings to our hearts. The wind blows first making the leaves on the trees dance beautifully. Some just dance steadily on the brownish branches while the others fly swiftly in the blowing wind till they fall to the earth. The loud noises from the surroundings suddenly start to go silent. Otherwise, the silence breaks in. Then the sky pours down silver drops. The banging sounds of windows replace the silence later on. And people rushing here and there for shelter and the scenes of water rushing down the drain pipes make the portrait of a rainy day complete. The colours from the umbrellas play the supporting role in this season as well. Once it showers, the countless rain drops water the dry dust off the old streets of Yangon city. How pleasant!

It is true that the rain makes the sights of our city into a dim-lighted room. However, yet there are lots and lots of heavenly sceneries after rain has poured to describe. Such as, seven-coloured rainbows, green grasses and new green leaves on large shady trees, some flowers blooming stunningly as they drink the tasty drops of rain and some pewter skies before evenings. How appealing they are! The nature paints our environment into such a charming one. Close your eyes and let the rain drops wash your worries away from your mind. Let them lead you to the truths of your life. Those clear drops are as pretty as the confetti, which, in this case, are falling down to earth from the sky. Allow the rain to fill your eyes with great countless memories you had in your unchangeable past and sing you a sweet lullaby on your rooftop at night. Let the wind blow on your face washing all your sweat.

Rain means a lot more than the rain to me. I used to spend my childhood staring the two drops of rain on the glass window rolling down and imagining it was a real race. Tucking up in bed during heavy rains makes me feel safe and secure. I love the sound of it knocking on the window.

SEE PAGE S-7

A.W Khin Myat
Grade - 10(A), B.E.H.S (4), Botahtaung.
How I spent My Summer Vacation

Our examination was over on March 20 and I went home on March 22. My home is in Shwebo. It is a town in Upper Myanmar. I left Yangon early in the morning and reached my native town the next morning. My parent were waiting at the station to see me off. They were very sad when I said goodbye to them. I took the 8 o'clock train and reached Yangon the next morning. My vacation was over.

Glossary

spent go
vacation went
was over
pony-cart
almost everyday
exciting happened
last (adj)
lasted (v)
a lump of ice
bucked
throw water
screamed pretended
laughed
emptied re-opened
every day during those days

I left Yangon.

Verb Form  went (Verbs)  have...had

Present Tense, Past Tense & Past Participle

Present

Past

Past

Participle
go
see
take
shake
break
write
ride
hide
bear
bear
tear
swear
speak
sing
ring
spring
draw
grow

went
saw
taken
shook
broken
written
ridden
hidden
borne
spoken
sung
sprung
drawn
grown

blown
thrown
swum
began
drunk
sank
driven
lay

ate
showed
flown
fallen
risen
done
chosen
hidden
arisen
wakened
forgotten

To be continued next week
Let’s Make Our Children Love Our Environment

Dr. Nu Nu Win
(Retired Professor and Head of Department)

During these years, the time we have heard and experienced different kinds of Natural Disasters as Storms, Floods, Earthquakes, Landslides and so on, all of us have to know the real causes of all these disasters, especially the shortage and disappearing of different trees and plants as well as some species of creatures.

Most of the Natural Disasters were caused by these erosions and disappearing of different species which can, not only save and defend us from these Natural Disasters, but also offer us with different kinds of foods and other things useful for our daily lives and also even natural medical plants. So to maintain all these different natural environment is very important nowadays.

Not only planting again new trees and forests, but also we need to defend our forests.

And plants and trees and different creatures from disappearing from our world. For the long-term plan, it is important to teach children and youth to value our trees, plants and creatures so that they would not do any destructions as today’s men have been wrong.

Therefore, to train children and youth to have love and value on these trees, plants and creatures, to let them know their values and useful traits through environmental science, is more and more important during these days.

Luckily enough for our children, here in our country, a friendly group named JWRC (Japan Wildlife Research Centre) have an idea to do so in some schools to our primary children. They tried to start their plan since 2016, came to visit some schools they get permission to join and started their plan to teach environmental science to our children through happy and enjoyable practical teaching and learning.

First they started their plan with some Monastic Education Schools, International Schools and Private Schools.

Then in 2017, they got their chance to get permission to start a Project with a joint-procedure with Yangon University of Education. After they received permission to join Public Schools, they together started their project in …

(a) Two Ba Ka (Monastic Education) Schools,

(b) Two Private Schools and

(c) Two Public Schools.

Together we (members of JWRC + members of YUOE) went to these schools and then let the primary children to go out on field trips (just for an hour or so) in their school compound or to the nearby parks, let the children get some insects and flowers and plants with the help of their Japanese experts, all of them Ph.D. degree holders and senior or junior researchers from JWRC together with the help of our experts from YUOE, all of them Ph.D. degree holders professors and lecturers from the Biology Department and Methodology Department who have done their research work on Science Education. Among them, we have different specializations, such as Botanists, Zoologists, Experts in Fishes, experts in Reptiles, experts in Insects and so on. In some schools, we let the parents join together happily in these practical field trips with their children so that they can give advice and protect their children from any harm. Teachers from these schools also joined together with us. (Me, as the National Consultant for this Project.)

When the children caught some insects, they let these put systematically in the plastic bags or boxes, so that the insects may go on alive and all children may not get any harm. So also with the plants and flowers they collected.

Then all came into the classrooms again, and let the treasures they have got put on the table under small microscopes and let the children draw what they saw with colour pencils and crayons. Then each child had to name whichever name they feel to these insects and flowers.

After all, each had to come to the front of the class and tell whatever they know about their treasures. It was so interesting that how these children name their treasures, such as At-hawka Dragon-fly, Maung Nyo (to a small), Wut Hmone Shwe Yi (to a beautiful yellow butter-fly), Nay Toe (to a small insect) and so on. Some gave even their own names to these what they have brought.

They could say how many legs these have, how they fly, what they were doing when they were caught and so on. Every child felt so proud of his or her own collections.

After their individual presentations, the Japanese experts show some parts of some insects and plants and flowers under the microscope onto the screen and asked children which part of the insects or plants, what kind of insects these are and so on. Children can argue whatever they think and after all they came to know the correct answers.

It was the way they carried out their First Phase of their Project. During this year in 2018, the second phase of their project will be carried out here again and then in 2019, in their third phase, they are intending to try to spread their methods to all over the country through Teacher Educators and Teachers.

It is really a Great Hope to let our children learn to love our environment, so that they won't do anything destructing, instead they will protect and defend to face any Natural Disasters.

Dr. Nu Nu Win, Retired Professor and Head of Department, Department of Educational Psychology, Sagaing University of Education.
Hill tribe and artisan skills of ethnic people in Shan State

By Sai Zaw Latt

ETHNIC nationals in Myanmar lived in the hill, plain, delta and coastal areas. Due to the different geographical location, the language, literature and culture of ethnic nationals were different but all are human beings. As human beings, ethnic nationals cherish and value themselves while considering other ethnic nationals as their siblings and lived in unity with mutual respect, peace and democracy federal union that everyone years for will come into being.

Myanmar is an ethnically diverse nation of various ethnic races; therefore, we are duty-bound to preserve our own language, literature, culture and customs. There is a wide range of ethnic groups in Shan State, such as Tai Lue (Shan Qyi), Gori Shan, Tai Khiam, Tai Sa (ako) Mai Tae, Tai Leng (Shan), Tai Neua (Shan), Wa, Pa-O, Dans, Inn Thar, T’ang (Palaung), Kokia, Kichin, Kayan, Yin Net, Yin Kya’c, Tsang Yoe, Hla Nuw, Lins, Akha, Lahm and Eor.

Among them, with a population of 4,000, Yinkai Yinkai ethnic people are living in Nanmai and villages in Namsguang Township of Loilem District in southern Shan State. They make a living from crop cultivation, growing gahns, pineapple, maize, pigeon and ginger on a commercial scale. They have their own language but speak the Shan language fluently as they are living among Shan national. But, they have no own literature. Most of them can speak Shan, Pa-O and Myanmar languages as they are trading goods at the markets in urban areas. They believe in Buddhism, hold the same festivals like Buddhists in other regions and states on respective months of the Myanmar lunar calendar. The Shan have probably the most fascinating history of any of Burma’s indigenous peoples. They have lived in the area that is today the Shan State of Burma for over a thousand years. Most of the ethnic people in Shan are skilled artisans. Their crafts range from making fans out of bamboo to making jewelry out of the metals and the precious and semi-precious gem-stones that are mined in many parts of Myanmar. They have produced their handicrafts for many generations and will continue to be a part of their livelihood for many generations to come. The tradition paper or the Shan paper making is a home industry mostly found in some towns of Shan State. Renowned all over Myanmar, Shan paper is made from a kind of jute naturally grown in many parts of Shan mountains.

The process includes drying, washing, pounding, mixing, molding and other stages. Padomma Lotus is the main raw material lotus robe looming industry. This lotus species can in Inlay Lake of the Shan State where it grows naturally. Lotus fiber is used in Myanmar not only for making lotus robe but for human applications such as wrap, bracelet and key chain made from lotus fiber. Exibition and demonstration for the production of lotus fiber in the booths of the All Round Youth Development Festival were popular sites for the youths.
HAHA

I HAVE MADE MISTAKES.
I CAN'T FORGET MY LOSSES.
SEE HERE! YESTERDAY IS HISTORY.

TOMORROW ISN'T HERE YET.
YOU HAVE TO ACT NOW!
FIX YOUR MISTAKE AND START ANEW.
THEN YOUR TOMORROW WILL BE BRIGHTER.

I WANT TO DIVORCE MY WIFE.
CALM DOWN. WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?
SHE'S ALWAYS NAGGING AND YELLING.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED?
IT'S BEEN 20 YEARS.
THEN WAIT TILL IT'S 25.
YOU MEAN SHE'LL STOP AT THE 25TH YEAR?
I MEAN YOU'LL GROW TOLERANT BY THEN. I KNOW, I'VE BEEN THERE. WHAT?!
Learn, Unlearn and Relearn: the literacy of 21st century

By Gyaw Orwell

As a one who graduated from the university five years ago, sincerely if I confess, know closely nothing about my specialized major. Most of my friends are also like me, they said. They studied their various specialized majors in the university and now they are working at the different professions. Only a few of them are working at the professions related to their specialized subjects that they actually studied at the university.

What are the problems to us? I tried to ask myself this question several times. Every time I asked, many different forms of answers appeared. Here I want to point out you is not the answers that I have gotten by myself. It is the answer of Alvin Toffler, whom I knew last month after reading his famous quotes, “the illiterates of 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn”.

Alvin Toffler is an American writer, scientist and businessman. He was known for his works discussing modern technologies, including the digital revolution and the communication revolution and for his books, Future Shock, The Third Wave and Powershift.

He told the above quote 25 years ago before entering 21st century. I think it is true now because only learning and learning is not enough to succeed in that day.

Unless we make upgraded learning, we will not be smart and literate of 21st century. As we all know nothing is always updated. When another updated comes, we have to unlearn the old one, and relearn the new coming things. That is the rhythm as well as cycle of developing world. If we want to catch the development, we must learn often in different forms.

Unlearning and relearning don’t mean that one should forget the things he/she had learnt and learn it again at some point of time in his life. Unlearning happens when we are open to new perspectives to the things we already know.

Relearning happens when we accept a new perspective and appreciate that knowledge and then overcome our misconception and misunderstanding from that perspective and from the time we learnt something new.

When we learn something for the first time, we will be focusing to get a bigger and abstracted view of it and must ignore small and important features. After learning something, a small discussion with friends or teaching someone or trying to summarize our learning will make us more realize the minute details that we have missed when we learnt it.

As a saying of Lao Tzu goes, “To attain knowledge, add things every day. To attain wisdom, remove things every day.” Martin H. Fisher also said on unlearning that it is not hard to learn more. What is hard is to unlearn when we discover ourselves wrong.

The best way to change our society is to invest in education. We, young or old, can change today the ways of our learning. What we learnt in the past is no problem but what we learn now can become problems for our future. Therefore, I would like to urge you is that don’t wait for another time, start make your change on learning now. I wish you be the best learner in all time. Thanks you very much.

The Breath of June’s Early Rain

FROM PAGE 5-1

The atmosphere during rain cannot be compared to the other ones as it’s somehow mild and pleasant. The petrichor, smell of wet soil, plays an important role for this season. Listening to the rhythm of the rain is one of those things that I do to kill my time when the rain is pouring outside. A mug of warm coffee is also necessary for such a chilling season like this.

Myanmar, my country mostly gets fair share of rain as we desperately need it. Our country is an agricultural country and our farmers need rain even though too much of it can destroy the crops. It is not wrong to say that too much rain can make some traffic jams by mackling the cars’ front mirrors. Enough is enough that too much is not good. The quote-

‘Everybody wants happiness, nobody wants pain. But you can’t have a rainbow, without a little rain’, highlights the colourful rainbows after rain.’

Rhythm of the Rain’ by ‘The Cascades’ is glorious among songs which are composed with the loving hearts of poets and singers.

Lastly, the breath of air is whispering that the rain is here bringing happiness, coldness, freshness and cleanliness to our city and country. Not only us, the humans, but also the animals and the trees and plants are looking forward for it. All of us are really thirsty to take the first sip of rain from the sky above of us. Birds that are flying in the sky are telling us the exact time of the arrival of June’s early rain. So, we all have to welcome it warmly afterwards.
O
nce upon a time, Brahma-
datta, the king of Varan-
si had a son, Brahm-
datta Kumara, whose fame and
glory outshone his prestige. The
king was troubled by the thought
that his son might seize the
throne. The king thus banished
his son from his kingdom.

The Prince went to a thick
forest and built for himself a hut
near the bank of the Yamuna
River and he went every day out
to the wood in search of roots
and fruits.

One day, he met a female
Naga near his hut. The female
Naga changed herself into a very
beautiful woman. The Prince fell
in love with the Naga woman and
they were soon married. In
course of time, the Naga woman
gave birth to four sons, namely Sudasana, Datta, Subhaga and Arittha. Dat-
ta was the Bodhisattva or the fu-
ture Buddha.

The four princes grew up,
acquiring all the knowledge be-
fitting their position. Their father
gave each of them a glorious and
prosperous kingdom and they
dwelt in their respective palaces
with their consorts.

Datta was of a thoughtful
temperament and his learning
was known even by the Thag-
yamin, the Celestial King who
in recognition of his wisdom be-
stowed on him the title of Bur-
datta meaning ‘wisdom as broad
as earth’.

He passed his time mostly in
meditation and to get away from
the Naga maidens. He meditat-
ed and observed fasts under a ban-
yan tree at the bank of the
Yamuna River.

One day, there came two
Brahmins, father and son, and
they saw Brahmadatta meditat-
ing in the princely attire. When
questioned by the Brahmins, the
Prince told them the truth about
his Naga birth. Brahmadatta took
them to the Naga Kingdom where
they enjoyed luxury and prosp-
ervities of a prince.

After living in Brahmadat-
ta’s palace for a year, the Brah-
mins were seized with a long-
ing to return to the world of
the mortals. Brahmadatta offered
a wealth-fulfilling jewel to them
but they refused to accept it. Ac-
cordingly, they were sent back to
their home where the wife of the
old Brahmin anxiously waited for
their return. The Brahmin was
scolded, abused and beaten by
his wife for refusing the jewel
given by the Naga king. In order
to pacify her, the old Brahmin
miraculous jewel and gems that
Brahmadda had once offered to his
guests in the Naga kingdom. The
sudden appearance of the snake
charmer frightened the maiden
and they vanished leaving the
jewel behind. The snake charms-
ers were quick to get hold of it.

Meanwhile, the Brahmin
who spent a year in the Naga
kingdom and his son, in search
of gems, came face to face with
the snake charmers and he rec-
ognized the jewel in his hand.
The Brahmin felt an uncontrol-
able desire to own the jewel.
The Brahmin asked the snake
charmer on what condition he
would part with gem. The snake
charmer replies that he would
give the jewel to anyone to help
him capture the Naga who once
owned it. His motive was to en-
slave the Naga and train him
to perform before the king and
commoners alike. The Brahmin
asked the snake charmer to fol-
low him to meet the Naga. His son
Somadat protested to his father’s
evil plan. But as his father did
not give in helping his pleas, he
went away to the Himalayas and
became an ascetic.

Brahmadda, while fasting, saw
the Brahmin bringing the snake
charmer to him and resolved to
obey the stranger’s bidding with-
out sorrow or anger and ex-
ercising the highest resolution,
he remained perfectly calm. The
snake charmer knew that the
Naga was in his power. He made
a basket and threw the Naga into
it. People showed him gold and
silver coins, costly garments and
jewelries. He became extremely
rich within a short period. But
he wished to be wealthier and
he wanted to perform before the
kings and emperors.

At the time Buridatta was
seized by the snake charmer,
Samudaja had an evil dream. In
her dream, she saw a black man
with flaming red eyes cutting
off one of her arms and carry-
ing it away. Samudaja told her
sister Sudasana about her terrible
dream. Sudasana asked Subhaga
to go towards the Himalayas and
told Aritthta to go to the celestial
kingdom in search of Buridatta.
Sudasana decided to the world
of the mortals disguised as a her-
mit to look for his brother. By the
permission of Sudasana, Issam-
ukki the step sister of Buridatta,
changed herself into a little frog
and, hidden in his locks of hair,
followed him unseen to Kashi.
They reached the city when the
snake charmer was about to give
a show.

As the king Sahagura Buridatta
was watching the show, the snake
charmer opened the lid of the
basket and out came the Naga.
Sudasana picked up a quar-
rel with the snake charmer ac-
cusing him of being the pretend-
er without the knowledge of any
spells but exercised cruelty and
torture to subdue the Naga.

The snake charmer was
extremely angry and dared the
seeming hermit to challenge him.
Sudasana challenged the
snake charmer to fight to death
for the little frog of the former
and the Naga of the latter. At Sudasa-
na’s command, Issamukki as a
frog vomited three balls of poison
onto his palm. He ordered that
three holes be dug in the ground
and dropped the balls in the holes.
The frog and the snake charmer
were standing near the holes at that
time. Sudden, flames sprang up from
the holes and poisoned smoke envel-
oped his body and turned him into
a leper. The snake charmer was
very much frightened, shouting
that the Naga was now free, ran
away. Then Buridatta assumed the
form of a deva (celestial be-
ing) with all the splendor of the
Thagynim himself.

King Sagara, Buridatta, Su-
dasana and Issamukki as close
relatives, were united. Sudasana,
Buridatta and Issamukki bade
farewell to the king of Varanasi
and returned to the Naga world.
Aritthta came back from the ce-
lestial kingdom and Subhaga
came back from the Himalayas
and reached the Naga kingdom
almost simultaneously.

(Excerpts from Stories from
the Myanmar Classical Theatre
By Ye Dway)

BURIDATT

(Based on the Sixth of the Ten Great Jatakas)

By Ye Dway